

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT M 00104 092327Z

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07

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FM AMCONSUL PORT MORESBY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0279

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT MORESBY 0104

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PP

SUBJECT: PNG VIEWS ON INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

1. THOMAS TOBUNBUN, DFRT ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, WHO ATTENDED TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL MEETING AND PART OF THE UNGA IN LATE 1974, MADE THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS TO ME ABOUT INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS DURING LONG LUNCHEON CONVERSATION:

2. GPNG IS THINKING SERIOUSLY ABOUT ITS ROLE IN UN. GPNG REALIZES IT CANNOT TAKE SIDES ON EVERY ISSUE, AND WILL WANT TO HOLD BACK ON MANY ISSUES, ESPECIALLY IN FIRST FEW YEARS AFTER INDEPENDENCE. MOREOVER, MANY ISSUES AT THE UN ARE REALLY DOMESTIC ISSUES FOR THE COUNTRY CONCERNED, AND GPNG DOES NOT THINK IT SHOULD TAKE SIDES ON INTERNAL MATTERS. TOBUNBUN SPOKE WITH SOME DISMAY ABOUT "ENORMOUS PRESSURES" EXERTED ON COUNTRY DELEGATIONS TO UN ON MATTERS HE THOUGHT
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PAGE 02 PORT M 00104 092327Z

SHOULD BE LEFT UP TO INDIVIDUAL GOVERNMENTS TO

DECIDE. IN ORDER TO MAKE ITS VOICE HEARD ON SOME ISSUES, GPNG WILL WORK WITH PACIFIC ISLAND COUNTRIES TO DEVELOP UNIFIED POSITION (PORT MORESBY 0095).

3. GPNG IS RETHINKING ITS POSITION ON JOINING SPECIALIZED AGENCIES, AND IS ASKING ITSELF WHAT WILL THE BENEFITS BE. GPNG DOES NOT WANT A LOT OF SPECIALIZED AGENCIES TELLING PNG WHAT TO DO WHEN THE GOVERNMENT COULD COPE WITH THE GIVEN PROBLEM THROUGH LEGISLATION OR POLICY CHANGES WITHOUT THE URGING OF THE SPECIALIZED AGENCY.

4. RE THE FOUR POWER GROUPING (AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND, INDONESIA, PAPUA NEW GUINEA) PROPOSAL BY LATE PRIME MINISTER KIRK, GPNG THINKS IT WOULD PRINCIPALLY BENEFIT INDONESIA. GPNG ANTICIPATES IT WOULD TURN INTO AN AID GROUP AND INDONESIA WOULD SYPHON OFF MOST OF THE AID. TOBUNBUN WAS VERY COOL TO THIS GROUPING.

5. RE ASEAN, GPNG WOULD PROBABLY DECIDE TO JOIN, BUT REALLY DIDN'T NEED TO AS IT COULD MAKE USE OF ITS MEMBERSHIP IN ECAFE TO REACH ALMOST THE SAME ENDS.

6. RE TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL, TOBUNBUN SAID US DEL WAS VERY HELPFUL TO PNG DEL, MORE HELPFUL THAN THE AUSTRALIANS.

7. COMMENT: TEMPORARY DUTY AT THE UN WAS OBVIOUSLY AN EYE OPENING EXPERIENCE FOR TOBUNBUN. SOME OF THE VIEWS HE WAS ATTRIBUTING TO THE GPNG MAY HAVE BEEN MAINLY HIS OWN, BUT HE IS ARTICULATE AND FORCEFUL, AND HIS VIEWS WILL BE HEARD AT HIGH LEVELS IN GPNG. OLMSTED

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